

City of Bloomington Council for Community Accessibility

January 28, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Byron Smith, Megan Hutchison, Jeff Busch, Bert Clemons, Katie Anderson, David Carter, Craig Brenner, Nancy Dixon, Michael Lindley, Derek Neff, Justin Wykoff, Leah Finn, Joyce Williams, Kelly Mattingly, Elizabeth White, Carrie Greer, Vicki Pappas, Jo Ann Parker, and Jared Parker.

Introductions: Introductions were made; students from an IU HPER class were observing the meeting. There were no media reports.

Minutes and Financial Report: Minutes were accepted and a financial report was distributed. Craig reported that since the November meeting we have paid Andrew Imparato and the Hilton for the CCA Awards Ceremony. The reimbursement was received from Hire Potential for half of Andrew Imparato's honorarium and travel expenses. At meeting time, the council has \$3,520.68 in available funds.

Guest Presentations: Jo Ann Parker attended the meeting to talk about reduced rates for BT Transit riders with disabilities that use the fix route. Byron agreed to talk with Jo Ann to learn more about the problem and address the issue.

Another guest asked what could be done about crossing the street at Hawthorne and Atwater. The guest believes it's unsafe to cross and could use a crosswalk. Justin Wykoff, the City's Engineering manager, said that it would be unusual to place a crosswalk in that area, but that the area should be looked at since there isn't a nearby intersection to safely cross. Justin took the guest's phone number and is going to look at the site more closely to see what they can do.

Reports from the City: Michael Lindley from Traffic Control Corporation and Derek Neff from the Street Department demonstrated the "Advisor Push-Button Signal," an audible pedestrian signal. Craig expressed concern about the constant beeping and the response merchants and/or residents near the intersections may have. Michael explained that the signal's tone can be turned down and that the tone level adjusts according to the noise level around the signal. Megan suggested that Derek should see how other cities have liked or disliked the signals.

Derek shared the test sites and Byron suggested testing the device at Kirkwood and Walnut and Kirkwood and College. Currently, the intersections where the device will be tested include:

1. N. Walnut and 7th St.
2. N. College and 7th St.
3. E. 10th and Woodlawn
4. E. 10th and Fee Lane
5. E. 10th and Jordan Avenue

Pending Concerns: Maria Heslin is the new Deputy Mayor; Byron will call Maria to arrange a meeting about how to improve the accessibility of local businesses and the decal program.

New Concerns: Vicki talked about the new Farm restaurant that has a bar in the basement that will be opening. There are concerns that this will not be accessible and that there may be a legal issue if the accessible portion of the restaurant is closed while the bar stays open. The same question came up with regards to Trulli Flatbread restaurant, which has an inaccessible upstairs bar. Vicki is going to follow up on this issue with the Great Lakes ADA Center and will talk to Byron if letters need to be sent to Trulli Flatbread and/or Farm.

Activities and Events Committee: The council was unanimous; Jennifer Robinson and Bert Clemons did an awesome job on the holiday party. Thanks to everyone who participated. The CCA is co-sponsoring the film “Including Samuel” with the Parent Teacher Advisory Council on Special Education.

Accessibility Committee: The committee should gear up in late February or March when the weather gets better.

Communications and Operations Committee: Vicki is putting together a calendar of Disability Awareness Month activities for a press release in the HT and on the city website. If people know of events they are to email Vicki with the details.

Arts Access Committee: No new updates

Hire Potential: Megan H. reported that Hire Potential is changing its name and will be developing new marketing materials. HPI will be sponsoring events in March for Disability Awareness month and will email Vicki the details for the calendar.

Way to Go: No new transportation education trainings scheduled as of today.

Visitability: The committee is creating a handout for the general public that focuses on making homes more visitable. Vicki wants to talk with the planners of the Indianapolis Home Show to see if they would showcase an accessible visitable home. The committee is also trying to work with the Realtors Association to discuss the benefits of marketing visitable features and the importance of the features when realtors show homes. If any CCA members would like to join the committee, please email Vicki.

Old Business: The council agreed to participate in the next Business Expo and to pay a higher fee in order to have a table upstairs in a high traffic area. Bert suggested everyone who works the booth should have the same talking points. At the next meeting we will discuss narrowing our message to fit the audience at the Expo. Vicki is going to obtain data on what type of audience attends the Expo in order to craft our message more effectively. We are waiting to hear whether or not we have been approved to conduct a workshop for Expo attendees. The Expo’s tagline this year is “Start Your Engines.”

New Business: No new business

General Announcements: Katie let everyone know that there will be a Valentine’s Day Auction at the Hilton Garden Inn this Thursday, and all proceeds go to youth scholarships.